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A FORM
OF
HUMBLE PRAYER
TO
ALMIGHTY GOD

TO BE USED ON
SUNDAY, THE THIRD OF JANUARY, 1915,
Being the Day Appointed for Intercession
On behalf of the Nation and Empire
In this Time of War.

Issued under the Authority of the Archbishops of
Canterbury and York.

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SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,
LONDON: NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.

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I.

THE ORDER OF HOLY
COMMUNION.

¶ *In the Order of Holy Communion these Collects shall be used after the Collect of the Day, with the Epistle and Gospel as followeth :*

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth : We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which be profitable for us ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things : Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Romans viii. 18.

FOR I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope : because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope : but hope that is seen is not hope : for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for ? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities : for we

know not what we should pray for as we ought : but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

The Gospel. St Matthew vii. 7.

Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone ? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent ? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him ? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them : for this is the law and the prophets.

¶ *Before bidding the people to pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth, the Priest shall say :*

Let us pray that Almighty God will grant his continual help and guidance to us and to the peoples who are allied with us in this war.

Let us pray for all to whom is committed the duty of government, that they may act with wisdom and courage.

Let us pray for the sailors and soldiers of our King and of his Allies.

Let us pray for the sick and wounded, the anxious and the bereaved, whether our own or of the enemy ; and let us commend to the mercy of God those who fall in the service of their country.

Let us pray that peace may be restored, and that the issues of the war may be over-ruled for the glory of God and the enlargement of his kingdom.

¶ *Before the Blessing shall be said these Prayers that follow :*

O ALMIGHTY God, who canst bring good out of evil, and makest even the wrath of man to turn to thy praise : We beseech thee so to order and dispose the issue of this war, that we may be brought through strife to a lasting peace ; and that the nations of the world may be united in a firmer fellowship for the promotion of thy glory and the good of all mankind ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

REMEMBER, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us, and not what we deserve ; and, as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

AT MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER.

Special Psalms :

Morning, 42, 43, 46.

Evening, 23, 25.

Special Lessons :

Morning, First Lesson, i. Kings viii. v. 54 to v. 62.

Second Lesson, Revelation xxi. to v. 8.

Evening, First Lesson, Isaiah xxxv.

Second Lesson, St John xii. v. 23 to v. 33,

III.

A FORM OF HUMBLE PRAYER TO ALMIGHTY GOD IN THE PRESENT TIME OF WAR.

TO BE USED AFTER THE THIRD COLLECT OF MORNING OR OF
EVENING PRAYER, OR AT SUCH OTHER TIME AS THE MINISTER
IN HIS DISCRETION SHALL JUDGE CONVENIENT.

*¶ The Minister, standing in the Pulpit, or other convenient
place, shall speak to the people in these or other like words :*

OUR Saviour Christ, when he was upon earth, by his example and by his words ever taught men to pray. Through prayer we find in God our refuge and consolation in times of trouble; and by means of prayer we are permitted, and even commanded, to work with him for the fulfilment of his good purpose for mankind. We ought therefore most gladly to welcome the opportunity which is now given us, in this solemn hour of our nation's history, to join together in making supplication and intercession to our Heavenly Father and Almighty King.

That we may be the better able to do this our duty, let us endeavour to deepen in ourselves those feelings of need and unworthiness with which alone we may fitly approach the throne of grace; and let us carefully consider what those things are for which we may rightly present our petitions.

The conflict in which, by grievous necessity, we are engaged is such as must try to the utmost the strength of ourselves and our Allies. And were that strength never so much greater than it is, it would quickly be turned into weakness, if we presumed to imagine that it could of itself avail for our security and protection. (We have made

great efforts and sacrifices for what our conscience tells us is the cause of right and of freedom ; and, with the blessing of God, we are ready to make still more.) Let us, then, in all sincerity dedicate ourselves anew this day to his service from whom nations derive their commission, and by whom they are endued with power to execute justice and equity.

Before all else we must remember that those who would receive good at the hands of God must go to him in humility, with a due sense of their many faults and continual shortcomings in his sight. If we do but examine our hearts and our lives, we shall discover that we have been verily guilty of the same kind of sins which we are most quick to detect, and most stern to denounce in our neighbours. We need to repent of our lack of faith, of our selfish indifference to the welfare of others, of our sinful indulgence and love of ease ; even, let us plainly confess it, of arrogance as a people, of confidence in ourselves, of pride of possession. We must freely acknowledge that it is of God's unmerited goodness that he has shielded our land from invasion, and granted some measure of success to our arms.

Coming thus humbly and thankfully to our faithful God and merciful Father, we shall not seek first the things that are for our private advantage, but the things which will be for the advancement of his kingdom. We shall entreat him to grant that out of the confusions and miseries of the war there may arise a clearer perception of the true relation between right and might, and a fuller apprehension of the Gospel of Christ as it bears upon the fellowship of nations.) (We shall have no desire to see our enemies crushed merely for the sake of their humiliation. We shall wish for them, as for ourselves, that their eyes may be opened to know what is true ; and we shall pray that the day may come, by the mercy of God, when we may learn to understand and respect one another, and may be united as friends to pursue the common good.) And above all we shall pray that when the longed-for peace arrives we may be filled with the determination to wipe out the bitter memory of our strifes and contentions by setting ourselves afresh, as men of goodwill, to the supreme task of leading the peoples of the world to the true knowledge and obedience of the only Deliverer and Master of us all.

To these great petitions for the future we shall add our requests for the supply of our immediate necessities : for the decisive and speedy victory of our cause ; and, to that end, for guidance and a right judgment to be given to our King, and to all in authority under him. We shall pray for our sailors and soldiers that they may be examples of manly courage and mercifulness ; for those who have been called to minister to the sick and the wounded, that they may be helped and protected ; for the many who mourn and are desolate, that they may find comfort and relief. Further, we shall pray for those who at home and throughout the Empire are now preparing for service in the field ; and for ourselves that we may cheerfully take our full share of the burdens that are to be borne. And in these our prayers we shall remember also those who are allied with us, and ask that the like blessings may be granted to them.

Finally, we shall not fail to give thanks for those who have laid down their lives on our behalf ; believing, as we do, that there has already been vouchsafed to them the knowledge that their sufferings will not be in vain : and we shall pray that we with them may have our portion in the inheritance of the life hereafter, through the mighty power of him, the great Captain of our salvation, who will yet manifestly go forth to war against all the evil that remains to be destroyed, to the end that he may deliver up the kingdom to his Father and ours, that God may be all in all. To which blessed consummation of victory may be speedily bring us. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the people kneel, and the Minister shall say :*

Let us prepare ourselves to draw near to God in humble prayer.

Our help is in the name of the Lord :

Who hath made heaven and earth.

O thou that hearest prayer :

Unto thee shall all flesh come.

Our misdeeds prevail against us :

O be thou merciful unto our sins.

(A period of silence.)

Let us pray.

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us humbly offer our supplication to Almighty God.

O God, the Father of heaven :

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world :

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost :

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed and glorious Trinity :

Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins; spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever :

Spare us, good Lord.

i.

For deliverance from sin.

(Response : *Good Lord, deliver us.*)

From all those sins whereby as a nation we have grieved thee ;

From pride, boasting, and self-sufficiency ;

From covetousness, worldliness, and indifference to the needs of others ;

From drunkenness, impurity, and all manner of self-indulgence ;

From trusting in our own strength and forgetting thee ;

From all thoughts and acts which hinder thy gracious purposes for mankind ;

Turn us, O God our Saviour :

And let thine anger cease from us.

O Lord, arise, help us :

And deliver us for thy Name's sake.

ii.

For pardon and spiritual renewal.*(Response : We beseech thee, good Lord.)*

We thy humble servants make our humble petition
before thee ; and that it may please thee

To pardon whatever in us has helped to cause the
present war ;

To forgive us our sins, shortcomings, and blindness of
heart ;

To pardon our want of faith in thee ;

To pardon our want of love to thee ;

To pardon our want of love one to another in thy holy
Church ;

To pardon our want of charity towards all men ;

To give us true repentance and amendment of life
through the grace of thy Holy Spirit ;

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world :

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world :

Grant us thy peace.

iii.

For our King and Country, and for our Allies.*(Response : Hear us, we beseech thee.)*

That it may please thee

Favourably to behold our King and his Ministers of
State, and to guide and protect them ;

To give wisdom and strength to all who are in authority ;

To bestow upon our people a spirit of self-control, and
of sure confidence in thee ;

✓ To inspire the men of our nation to offer themselves
willingly at the call of duty ;

To inspire those who remain at home with a like spirit
of sacrifice ;

To grant to all our Allies the blessings that we ask
for ourselves ;

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord :
Exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.
 Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness :
Thou that art the Saviour of them which put their trust in thee.

iv.

For our Navy and Army, and those of our Allies.

(Response : *Hear us, we beseech thee.*)

That it may please thee

To sustain and strengthen those who bear command by land or by sea, continuing to them thy gifts of wisdom and energy ;

To guard and preserve the men of all ranks, upholding their courage and endurance ;

To inspire them all with faith and hope, reverence and a high sense of honour, with tenacity in reverses and mercifulness in the hour of success ;

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him :

And upon them that put their trust in his mercy.

Our soul hath patiently tarried for the Lord ;

For he is our help and our shield.

v.

For all sufferers through the war.

(Response : *Hear us, we beseech thee.*)

That it may please thee

To look in mercy upon the wounded, the sick, and the dying ; and to bless the efforts of all who minister to them ;

To give faith and courage to those who are in anxiety and suspense ;

To comfort and help the mourners, and all who are desolate and distressed ;

To grant to all prisoners of war a spirit of patient endurance under the burden of restraint and weariness ;

Himself took our infirmities ;
And bare our sicknesses.
 Mine angel is with you :
And I myself, caring for your souls.

vi.

For those who fight against us.

(Response : *Hear us, we beseech thee.*)

That it may please thee
 To forgive our enemies, and to help us to forgive them ;
 To remove their misunderstanding, and to allay their
 bitterness ;

To give them repentance for their misdoings, and a
 readiness to make amends ;

To shew thy pity upon those of them who suffer—in
 battle, or through bereavement, poverty, or other miseries
 of war ;

To reward with thy mercy such of them as shew merey
 to their enemies ;

Be not overcome of evil :
But overcome evil with good.

When a man's ways please the Lord :
He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

vii.

✓ **For the speedy triumph of our cause.**

(Response : *Hear us, O God of righteousness.*)

That it may please thee

✓ To judge between us and our enemies, and in thy
 mercy to grant victory to our arms ;

To preserve our land from bloodshed, and to remove
 the horrors of war from other lands ;

To give to us and to the whole world a speedy,
 righteous, and abiding peace ;

To bring forth out of this conflict a true brotherhood
 of men, and a lasting fellowship of the nations ;

Hear the right, O Lord, consider our complaint :
*And hearken unto our prayer, that goeth not out of feigned
 lips.*

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness :
His countenance will behold the thing that is just.

viii.

Thanksgiving for mercies already received.

(Response: *We thank thee, O God.*)

With these our prayers let us offer to Almighty God
 our humble thanks for his mercies which we have already
 received.

For the blessings of a long time of peace ;

For the laying aside of controversies at home, and for ✓
 the unity of the Nation and Empire ;

For the loyal and loving response of our fellow-subjects
 beyond the seas ;

For the full harmony between our Allies and ourselves,
 and for the success which has already been granted to our
 common efforts ;

For the devotion of those who have laid down their
 lives for their country ;

For the revelation in danger, in suffering, and in death,
 of the power of the Cross and the benefits of the Lord's
 Passion ;

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy :

Long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins :

Nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
 Ghost :

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ; world
 without end. Amen.*

(*A period of silence.*)

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us ; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking ; We beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities ; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Here may be added, at the discretion of the Minister, one or more of the special prayers already issued by authority. And then shall be said :*

NOW unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us ; unto him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

IV.

In parishes where it is desired to make special intercessions on the days of the week which follow the appointed Sunday, the Form preceding may serve again: and use may be made of the Forms already authorized and issued. For the commemoration of those who have fallen in the War such Form shall be used as is sanctioned by the Bishop of the Diocese.

The following Table may be found convenient for the assignment of particular subjects to the several days:

MONDAY. The King. The Government. The Leaders of our Forces. The Allied Nations, with their Rulers and Commanders.

TUESDAY. Our Forces, and those of our Allies; at sea, on land, in the air. That they may be granted protection in danger; and victory in battle.

WEDNESDAY. The wounded, the sick, the dying. All who minister to them. The mourners, and all who suffer distress through the War.

THURSDAY. The Nation; the Empire; the Church. That there may be a nobler civilisation based upon a deeper knowledge and a bolder acceptance of the Gospel message.

FRIDAY. That we may put away the unchristian feelings of hatred and retaliation; and may learn to pray for our enemies. That both they and we may receive forgiveness of all our sins, and may be guided into the way of Peace.

SATURDAY. Those who have fallen in the War; whom we commend to the mercy of God; thanking him for their devotion even unto death.

FORM OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY 3, 1913.

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NOTE.

The following Forms have already been issued, and are to be had either separately at the prices marked, or bound together, price 2d. (paper) and 4d. (cloth), net :—

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